

**For Immediate Release (7/28/2025):**

## **REP. CLEMMONS CALLS AIRPORT TUNNEL PLAN “FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE AND LEGALLY SUSPECT”**

**NASHVILLE—**The following is a statement by Tennessee House Democratic Caucus Chairman John Ray Clemmons (D-Nashville) on today’s announcement that the State is entering into a partnership with Elon Musk-owned The Boring Company to build the Music City Loop—a high-speed tunnel will run from the Nashville International Airport to downtown. The announcement was made Monday afternoon at a press conference held by Governor Bill Lee, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, and officials with the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority and The Boring Company. Rep. Clemmons today issued a warning about the project:

*“What Tennesseans witnessed today was the result of a smart businessman identifying an easy target in starry-eyed Bill Lee. No responsible executive would give away unrestricted and unlimited underground property rights to an unhinged billionaire, who Donald Trump doesn't even trust anymore, and grant him and his company exclusive access rights beneath our city and a monopoly to profit in perpetuity. Such a decision without necessary due diligence is fiscally irresponsible and legally suspect.*

*Also, given the issues that have arisen in Las Vegas due to a lack of oversight and regulation, the legal and environmental consequences of this proposal are of significant concern to Nashville families. This city's archaic stormwater and inadequate wastewater system is fragile, at best, and the significant threats posed by an unregulated underground boring project are very real. This project could ultimately cost Tennessee taxpayers a significant amount of money and threaten our local economy.*

*While we all want a modernized transportation system and a more efficient way to move throughout our city and region, it is worth remembering that there are no shortcuts to any place worth going.”*